

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic honeycomb extrusion apparatus having comprising:

_____ a biaxial screw portion, a flow regulation portion, a foreign substance removal portion portion, and an aglet extrusion portion having upstream and downstream ends, which are arranged as a main portion from an upstream side of a batch flow, comprising the construction such that wherein the flow regulation portion includes comprises a diameter reducing portion, a cylinder portion portion, and a diameter expanding portion arranged from an upstream side, located at said downstream end of said extrusion portion, wherein:

_____ (1) an inlet shape of the diameter reducing portion at a side of adjacent the biaxial screw portion portion, which is equal congruent to an outlet shape of the biaxial screw portion;

_____ (2) an outlet shape of the diameter reducing portion at a side of adjacent the cylinder portion portion, which is equal congruent to an inlet shape of the cylinder portion;

_____ (3) an inlet shape of the diameter expanding portion at a side of adjacent the cylinder portion portion, which is equal congruent to an outlet shape of the cylinder portion; and

(4) an outlet shape of the diameter expanding portion at a side of adjacent the foreign substance removal portion portion, which is equal congruent to an inlet shape of the foreign substance removal portion portion, wherein the flow regulation portion comprises a cassette mechanism comprising a detachable inner portion for regulating flow of material being extruded therethrough.

2. and 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of extruding for forming a ceramic honeycomb, comprising a step of extruding the a green ceramic honeycomb by utilizing the material through a ceramic honeycomb extrusion apparatus set forth in claim 1. comprising:

(1) an inlet shape of the diameter reducing portion adjacent the biaxial screw portion, which is congruent to an outlet shape of the biaxial screw portion;

(2) an outlet shape of the diameter reducing portion adjacent the cylinder portion, which is congruent to an inlet shape of the cylinder portion;

Serial No.: 10/082,141

(3) an inlet shape of the diameter expanding portion adjacent the cylinder portion, which is congruent to an outlet shape of the cylinder portion; and

(4) an outlet shape of the diameter expanding portion adjacent the foreign substance removal portion, which is congruent to an inlet shape of the foreign substance removal portion, wherein the flow regulation portion comprises a cassette mechanism comprising a detachable inner portion for regulating flow of material being extruded therethrough.

Serial No.: 10/082,141

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the attached one (1) sheet of formal drawings, Figures 4 and 5, to replace Figures 4 and 5 as originally filed.